

A N
Abstract of the CHARTER

Granted in the Year 1741,

For the BENEFIT of

Poor WIDOWS and CHILDREN of

C L E R G Y M E N

Beneficed or having Curacies in the CITY of
NORWICH and COUNTY of NORFOLK.

To which are added,

R U L E S and O R D E R S,

Approv'd of and confirm'd at a GENERAL COURT,

FOR THE

Better carrying on the Designs of this SOCIETY.

ANNEXED ARE

F O R M S of P E T I T I O N S,

O F

C E R T I F I C A T E S and of a L E G A C Y.

Printed by Order of the G O V E R N O R S.

MDCCLXXI.

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An Abstract of the Charter, &c.

I.

THE Governors of this Charity are incorporated by the Name of the Governors of the Charity for the Relief of poor Widows and Children of Clergymen beneficed or having Curacies in *Norwich* and *Norfolk*.

II.

All Persons contributing twenty Shillings a Year or upwards, or twenty Pounds at one Time, are appointed Governors.

III.

They are impowered to have and use a common Seal.

IV.

Notwithstanding the Statutes of Mortmain they may purchase, receive, and enjoy so far as they are not restrain'd by Law, Lands, &c. not exceeding 1000 l. per Annum beyond Reprizes, and all personal Estate whatsoever.

They

V.

They may sue and implead in any Court.

VI.

They are enjoin'd to have two general Courts yearly, and to give fourteen Days Notice in the Gazette or otherwise, of the same, *viz.* on the 24th of June or the Tuesday following; and on the first of December, if not a Sunday, in that Case on the Monday following.

VII.

Every general Court must consist of five Governors, one of whom must be the President or a Vice-President. The Majority of the Members present are to transact and determine all Business relative to the Affairs of the Corporation: They may appoint Committees for these Purposes, and invest them with such Powers as they shall judge necessary: They may make Rules and Orders for the Management of the Charity, but not inconsistent with any particular Directions, which may be given by any particular Benefactor.

VIII.

The Bishop of *Norwich* for the Time being is appointed President.

There

IX.

There must be three or more Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, and three Auditors, together with such other Officers and Servants, as the Governors shall be pleased to appoint. And such Officers or Servants, who are in Places of Trust, are to continue during the Pleasure of the said Governors.

X.

The Treasurer is requir'd to take an Oath for the faithful Administration of his Office, and if called upon, to give Security.

XI.

The Governors are empowered to take Benefactions, and their Treasurer to receive the same, whose Receipt shall be a full and legal Discharge for such Benefactions: He is on all Occasions to be subject to such Controul and Examination, as the Governors shall please.

XII.

The Governors may elect such Persons, as they shall think proper, Members of this Corporation.

XIII.

The Governors are impowered to appoint Stewards to collect Subscriptions: They may displace them, if they shall think proper: They may

may give such Directions to their Treasurer and other Officers, as they shall judge necessary for the better Execution of the Trust reposed in them.

XIV.

The Governors are enjoined to enter the Names of Subscribers and Benefactors of any kind, together with the respective Sums given by each Person, in a Book to be kept for that Purpose.

XV.

In all general Courts, the President or Dean (if present) or Vice-President first named of those who are present, is to be Chairman ; in case of an equality of Voices, he is to have a casting Vote ; and may administer Oaths, if necessary.

XVI.

This Charter is to be good in Law, and to be construed in all Courts in the most favourable Sense for the Advantage of the Charity.



RULES and ORDERS,

F O R T H E

Better Government of this SOCIETY.

I.

IT is ordered, That every Widow capable of receiving Benefit from this Charity, must be the Widow of a Clergyman who was beneficed or *had a Curacy in Norwich or Norfolk.*

II.

That no Widow or Orphan be intitled to any Benefit from this Charity, before a Petition be offered, together with a Certificate, signifying *if a Widow*, that she has no Estate or Sum of Money at Interest or Annuity, or certain Income of any kind whatsoever, which produces the neat Sum of 25 l. a Year—*If an Orphan*, that the said Orphan has not six Pounds a Year clear to maintain him or her, and if soliciting to be put out to any Trade, that he or she has not the Sum of twenty Pounds to put him or her

out Apprentice. The Truth of these Cases to be attested by three Governors at least.—But if it shall so happen, that the Circumstances of such Widows or Orphans are not sufficiently known to the three subscribing Governors, who recommend these Persons, believing them to be proper Objects of this Charity ; then it is further requir'd, that the Names of two or three Persons of Credit, who can positively attest the Truth of the Case represented, should be subscribed likewise.—See *Form first*.

III.

That before any Widow be intitled to any Dividend ordered by a general Court of Governors, a Certificate sign'd by the Minister of the Parish, where such Widow resides, be transmitted (if requir'd) to the Treasurer; setting forth, that she is living, that she is still the Widow of _____ deceased (*expressing the Name of her late Husband*) and signifying, that since the last Dividend was paid, she has (to the best of his Knowledge) received no Addition to her Property, so as to disqualify her for being benefited by this Charity according to the last Rule.—*See Form the second.*

IV.

That to prevent Abuses of this Charity,
every Widow (if called upon) shall be oblig'd
to

to produce a Certificate, sign'd by two or more credible Persons, one of which to be the Minister of the Parish where she resides, of her sober and inoffensive Life and Conversation, and of her continuing to be a Member of the Church of *England*, as by Law establish'd; and upon Refusal, the Treasurer is inhibited from paying the Dividend, tho' before order'd at a general Court.—*See Form the third,*

V.

That in case a Widow has 25 l. a Year, but at the same Time has a Child or Children unprovided for, upon a proper Representation of the Case, the Governors of this Charity may order an annual or occasional Allowance from Time to Time towards the Maintenance and Education of such Child or Children, as in their Discretion they shall think proper, till such Child or Children are fit to be put out Apprentices.

VI.

That a Sum not exceeding twenty Pounds, be allowed towards putting out Apprentice any Child of a deceased Clergyman, beneficed as above, and that five Pounds of this Money be considered, as appropriated and reserved accordingly towards cloathing such Child during his or her Apprenticeship.

That

VII.

That no Allowance be made to any Person concern'd in conducting this Charity, but to the Steward for the Management of their Estates; to the Registry for Leases making and registering; for Indentures of Apprenticeship and Attendances at the general or other special Courts, and making up and entering the Accounts in the Books kept for that Purpose, and to the Clerk who summons the Governors residing in the City of *Norwich*: All of whom are necessary Officers. Besides these, such Expences may be allowed as shall be incurr'd by the Purchase of Books to keep the Accounts; Carriage of Parcels; Charge of printing the States of the Charity, and such other incidental Outgoings as are unavoidable and necessary towards the better Support and Promotion of this Charity.

VIII.

That the common Seal be never set to any Instrument but by Order of the general Court.

IX.

That no Sum of Money be disposed of but at a general Court, where there shall be at least five Governors present, one of whom shall be a Vice-President (except for the immediate Relief of a Widow not yet upon the List; in which
case,

case, provided she comes recommended as directed by Rule 2nd, a Sum not exceeding five Pounds may be allowed her by the Treasurer, till a general Court be held—) and that a Majority of Governors to present order the Disposition of all Money, subject however to the general Limitations before mention'd.

X.

That for the more methodical conducting the said Charity, it is requested that the Stewards appointed to collect the annual and other Contributions, do the same before May and November in each Year, and transmit their several Collections to the Treasurer of this Corporation, before the last Week in each of those Months, that they may be accounted for at the annual Audits appointed by Charter, *viz.* the 24th Day of June, or the Tuesday following, and the first Day of December, if not a Sunday, in that case on the Monday following, in each Year. And it is humbly desir'd of each Steward, that he be careful to collect all the Contributions annually, so that there be no Arrears; and to apply for Contributions to such Persons, as he shall have reason to think disposed to encourage the benevolent Designs of this Corporation.

That

XI.

That for the better Encouragement of this Charity, and to shew the Attention, Fidelity and Impartiality with which it is conducted, annual Accounts of the Names of the Subscribers, the Sums they contribute, and Income of all kinds, together with the Disbursements be set forth at large, and printed and dispersed throughout the County, to every Subscriber, and such other Persons as the Stewards shall think proper.

XII.

That these Orders be printed and dispersed, and together with them, Forms of Petition and Certificates before Admission; of Certificates to be sent as often as requir'd, and of a Legacy to the said Charity; that those who are inclin'd to promote it, may not be ignorant of the means of doing it in the most effectual Manner.

FORM



I.

Form of a Petition for Admission, &c.

*To the Governors of the Charity for the Relief of
poor Widows and Children of Clergymen bene-
ficed or having Curacies in the City of Nor-
wich and County of Norfolk :*

The humble Petition of _____ Widow,
or Son or Daughter (as circumstanced) of
_____ late Rector or Curate of _____

SHEWETH,

T H A T your Petitioner's late Husband (*or Father*) is dead, and hath left you Petitioner in indigent Circumstances — *if a Widow*, that she hath no Estate or Sum of Money at Interest, Annuity or certain Income whatsoever to the Amount of 25 l. a Year clear—*if an Orphan*, that he *or she* has not six Pounds a Year clear to maintain him *or her*—and *when applying to be put to a Trade*, that he *or she* has not the Sum of twenty Pounds to put him *or her*

her out Apprentice—so that he *or she* is obliged to solicit Relief from this Corporation: The Governors of which are humbly desir'd to take the case into Consideration, and to make such Allowance towards his *or her* support, as to their Wisdom shall seem fit, and your Petitioner shall ever pray. A. B.

WE whose Hands are hereunto subscribed, being Governors of the said Charity, do hereby certify, that we believe the Contents of the above Petition to be true, and that the Widow of _____ is of sober Life and Conversation, and a Member of the Church of *England* as by Law established—if an *Orphan*, that he or she has been brought up a Member of the Church of *England*—and is a proper Object of this Charity.

A. B. }
C. D. } Governors.
E. F. }

Form of an Attestation from Persons who are not Governors, to be occasionally annexed to the above Form, as mention'd in Rule 2d.

WE whose Names are hereunto subscribed, do attest and make known to the Governors, &c. that we are well acquainted with the Circumstances of the Petitioner, and are verily persuaded, that the same are truly represented in the above Petition.

Form

2.

Form of a Certificate to be transmitted to the Treasurer as often as is requir'd.

THIS is to certify, that the
Widow of is now living,
at is still a Widow, and has
not had, to the best of my Knowledge, any ad-
dition to her annual Income since her last Di-
vidend was made, which makes it amount to the
Sum of 25l. a Year clear, and without Deduc-
tions.

Signed by the Minister of the Parish where
she lives.

3.

*Form of a Certificate of any Person's Sobriety,
&c. to be sent when requir'd.*

THIS is to certify that is
of a sober and inoffensive Life and Con-
versation, continues to be a Member of the
Church of *England* as by Law established, and
is worthy to receive the Benevolence of the
incorporated Society for the Relief of Clergy-
men's Widows, &c.

Sign'd by two or three credible Witnesses,
one of whom to be the Minister of the Parish
where the Party resides.

Form

Form of a LEGACY.

I Give to the Governors of the Charity for the Relief of poor Widows and Children of Clergymen beneficed or having Curacies in *Norwich* or *Norfolk*, the Sum of _____ to be applied towards carrying on the charitable Purposes for which they are incorporated.

F I N I S.



